



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 September 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Los Angeles Times reports a 2003 federal report estimated that at least 200,000 instances of identity theft involved medical identity fraud; experts believe that the rising cost of healthcare is a reason, and that many people are unaware they have become victims unless they receive a hospital bill or query from their insurer. (See item [8](#))
- The New York Times reports House and Senate negotiators have agreed to spend \$1.2 billion to install hundreds of miles of fence and vehicle barriers along the Mexican border as part of a \$34.8 billion spending plan for the Department of Homeland Security for the coming year. (See item [12](#))
- FBI deputy director John Pistole, at the second International Symposium on Agroterrorism, said that the U.S. needs to continue taking steps to protect its food supply from terrorism since terrorist groups like al Qaeda have shown an interest in U.S. agriculture and could threaten the food supply. (See item [18](#))

## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump***

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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## **Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

*September 26, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-1128T: Nuclear Nonproliferation: IAEA Safeguards and Other Measures to Halt the Spread of Nuclear Weapons and Material (Testimony).** The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards system has been a cornerstone of U.S. efforts to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was adopted in 1970. Safeguards allow IAEA to verify countries' compliance with the NPT. Since the discovery in 1991 of a clandestine nuclear weapons program in Iraq, IAEA has strengthened its safeguards system. In addition to IAEA's strengthened safeguards program, there are other U.S. and international efforts that have helped stem the spread of nuclear materials and technology that could be used for nuclear weapons programs. This testimony is based on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) report on IAEA safeguards issued in October 2005 (Nuclear Nonproliferation: IAEA Has Strengthened Its Safeguards and Nuclear Security Programs, but Weaknesses Need to Be Addressed, GAO-06-93 [Washington, DC: Oct. 7, 2005]). This testimony is also based on previous GAO work related to the Nuclear Suppliers Group—a group of more than 40 countries that have pledged to limit trade in nuclear materials, equipment, and technology to only countries that are engaged in peaceful nuclear activities—and U.S. assistance to Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union for the destruction, protection, and detection of nuclear material and weapons. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d061128thigh.pdf> Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-1128T>

2. *September 25, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **BP boosts its east Prudhoe Bay output.** BP restarted output on the eastern side of Prudhoe Bay, AK, over the weekend, after a shutdown in August due to the discovery of pipeline corrosion. Production on that part of the Alaska North Slope field on Monday, September 25, reached 100,000 barrels per day, a spokesperson said. Source: [http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6297610.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/New\\_s](http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6297610.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/New_s)
3. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Regional pact credited with spurring new power production.** A recent agreement to help spur new electricity-generating plants in New England has left the region better prepared to meet rising demand and avoid rolling blackouts in the next few years, energy officials said Monday, September 25. The head of New England's power grid manager and the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Monday credited the agreement for yielding a flurry of new power plant proposals in New England, reversing a sharp drop-off in recent years. Under the agreement, ISO New England will project regional power needs three years in advance and hold annual auctions to buy power resources, including new and existing power plants. Incentives would encourage private operators to respond to power system emergencies, and operators that don't make extra capacity available would face penalties. The agreement is designed to ensure revenue and rate certainty for power generators and consumers before the auction system begins in early 2008. The plan also aims to ease transmission bottlenecks in southwestern Connecticut and northeastern Massachusetts. Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2006/09/25/regional\\_pact\\_credited\\_with\\_spurring\\_new\\_power\\_production/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2006/09/25/regional_pact_credited_with_spurring_new_power_production/)

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

4. *September 26, KVBC (NV)* — **Street racers rupture gas line in Las Vegas; neighboring homes evacuated.** Two drivers street racing in stolen cars ruptured a gas line near Camino al Norte and Lone Mountain in North Las Vegas, evacuating more than two dozen people from their homes early Tuesday morning, September 26. One of those cars slammed into a house, breaking-off the home's gas meter. Patrol officers caught one of the drivers.  
Source: <http://www.kvbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=5459361&nav=15MV>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *September 25, Reuters* — **Air Force plans aerial tanker award in 2007.** The U.S. Air Force on Monday, September 25, issued a draft request for proposals in a long-awaited multibillion-dollar competition to replace its aging aerial refueling tankers over the next 30 to 40 years. The Air Force plans to issue a final request for proposals in December, then select a winning bidder in July 2007. That would mean the first tankers may be delivered in 2011 or 2012. The draft request for proposals dropped a requirement for bidding companies to reveal government subsidies they receive. Instead, the Air Force asked companies whether the government's final request for proposals should include the subsidy issue. At issue is a U.S.–European trade fight at the World Trade Organization over aircraft subsidies for Boeing and Airbus.  
Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060925/arms\\_tanker.html?.v=2](http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060925/arms_tanker.html?.v=2)
6. *September 25, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–06–1132: Iraq Contract Costs: DoD Consideration of Defense Contract Audit Agency's Findings (Report).** The government has hired private contractors to provide billions of dollars worth of goods and services to support U.S. efforts in Iraq. Faced with the uncertainty as to the full extent of rebuilding Iraq, the government authorized contractors to begin work before key terms and conditions were defined. Helping to oversee their work is the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), which examined many Iraq contracts and identified costs they consider to be questioned or unsupported. The Conference Report on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 directed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on audit findings regarding contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan. As agreed with the congressional defense committees, GAO focused on Iraq contract audit findings and determined (1) the costs identified by DCAA as questioned or unsupported; and (2) what actions the Department of Defense (DoD) has taken to address DCAA audit findings, including the extent funds were withheld from contractors. To identify DoD actions in response to the audit findings, GAO selected 18 audit reports representing about 50 percent of DCAA's questioned and unsupported costs on Iraq contracts.  
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d061132high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-1132>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *September 25, KMGH-TV (CO)* — **Computer with students' Social Security numbers missing.** One of two computers containing Social Security numbers and other personal information on nearly 1,400 students or former students from the University of Colorado's business school has been found, but the other is still missing. No cases of identity theft have been reported and no financial or credit card data was on the computers, university spokesperson Jeannine Malmsbury said on Friday, September 22. Letters were mailed Friday to all 1,370 students whose data was on the computers, Malmsbury said.  
Source: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/9924211/detail.html>
8. *September 25, Los Angeles Times* — **Identity theft infects medical records.** Although the most typical of the millions of identity theft cases in the U.S. each year involve credit cards, a 2003 federal report estimated that at least 200,000 instances involved medical identity fraud. Experts believe that the rising cost of healthcare is driving more identity theft, and that many people are unaware they have become victims unless they receive a hospital bill or query from their insurer. With their medical records compromised, victims of this kind of fraud face a greater risk of injury or even death if doctors make treatment decisions based on bad information. Files might list incorrect prescriptions, the wrong blood type, or even an erroneous diagnosis. Bad information can also put careers and insurance at risk. Many employers, including more than a third of the Fortune 500 companies, demand access to medical records when making hiring, promotion or benefits decisions, according to the nonprofit Patient Privacy Rights Foundation. Health and life insurance companies routinely scan medical files or payout reports before issuing new policies. Victims, though, often find that clearing their medical records of bad information is much more difficult than fixing credit reports, which are centralized in three major credit bureaus.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-medid25sep25.0.5686619.story?page=1&track=tohtml>
9. *September 25, CNET News* — **Banks rated for identity theft.** Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and Washington Mutual are the best bets in protecting against identity theft, according to a new report from Javelin Strategy & Research. Out of 24 of the top financial institutions in the U.S., these three banks scored best in a test of their ability to prevent, detect, and resolve identity theft. Most banks do especially well in resolving identity fraud, such as dealing with disputed transactions on accounts, James Van Dyke, president of Javelin Strategy & Research, said. Last year, identity theft topped the list for the third straight year of fraud complaints reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Consumers filed more than 255,000 identity theft reports to the FTC in 2005, accounting for more than a third of all complaints the agency received. Identity theft prevention had the most weight in evaluation. Bank of America's high standing was helped by its introduction of SiteKey, image and text checks that let people know they are on an authentic Bank of America Website and also verify the identity of the customer. Other financial institutions are expected to introduce similar features soon, Van Dyke said.  
Source: [http://news.com.com/Banks+rated+for+ID+theft/2100-1029\\_3-611\\_9424.html](http://news.com.com/Banks+rated+for+ID+theft/2100-1029_3-611_9424.html)
10. *September 25, ZDNet (Australia)* — **Hijacked airport site used in phishing scam.** Scammers have launched an attack on customers of the National Australia Bank (NAB). The phishing e-mail attempts to direct victims to a hijacked section of the Sarajevo Airport Website. The e-mail contains a number of NAB logos and asks recipients to "renew services" on their account by clicking on a link within the message. Joel Camissar, manager for security company

WebSense in Australia, pointed out that the e-mail contained a logo from security company VeriSign, which may be enough to persuade some people into thinking the message was genuine. A NAB representative told ZDNet Australia that the bank took phishing seriously: "It's very important customers understand that NAB would never send them e-mails asking them to complete password details or personal details." The representative also suggested that the NAB's online customers should switch to the company's SMS authentication system, which sends an authentication code to a pre-registered cell phone. The code must be entered into the bank's Website before certain transactions can be completed.

Source: [http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/soa/NAB\\_customers\\_phished\\_from\\_Sarajevo\\_Airport/0,139023165,339271280,00.htm?ref=search](http://www.zdnet.com.au/news/soa/NAB_customers_phished_from_Sarajevo_Airport/0,139023165,339271280,00.htm?ref=search)

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

11. *September 26, Seattle Post Intelligencer* — **Washington transit and ports get security grants.** The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma along with Washington State Ferries and other transit facilities will share \$14 million in security grants, the Department of Homeland Security said Monday. The money will be used for a variety of security upgrades, including \$4.1 million for "facility and perimeter security" at the Port of Seattle and \$1 million for command and control. The department is also providing \$2.2 million for training security guards at the port and for their equipment. The \$2 million earmarked for ferry system security has yet to be specified, officials said. The system will have 90 days to disclose to the Department of Homeland Security how the money will be used.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/286497\\_port26.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/286497_port26.html)

12. *September 26, New York Times* — **Lawmakers to spend \$1.2 billion on tightening border security.** House and Senate negotiators agreed Monday evening, September 25, to spend \$1.2 billion to install hundreds of miles of fence and vehicle barriers along the Mexican border as part of a \$34.8 billion spending plan for the Department of Homeland Security for the coming year. The biggest increase in spending in the bill, on which the House and Senate are expected to take final action on this week, is in the area of border security and immigration enforcement, which would get a total of \$21.3 billion, an 11 percent jump over this year. This includes money to hire 1,500 new Border Patrol agents, increasing the force to 14,800, and to add 6,700 detention beds. The \$1.2 billion for border security is designated for a traditional fence, vehicle barriers and a so-called virtual fence made up of cameras and sensors. That money could also be used to help build 700 miles of physical fence along a specific stretch of the Mexican border, a construction project that the House has already approved and the Senate is still considering. The border security spending is just one of several major policy initiatives that Congressional leaders decided to insert into the annual appropriations bill.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/26/washington/26budget.html>

13. *September 26, Pittsburgh Business Times* — **Google mapping Pittsburgh transit.** Pittsburgh is one of five cities getting help from Google for its mass transit riders. The Mountain View, CA-based Internet search giant worked with the Port Authority of Allegheny County on a version of its Google Transit trip planner, which is online. The planner uses data from Allegheny County to map bus routes and calculate how long the trip would take. The product,



which was tested earlier this year in Portland, OR, is also being launched in Seattle, WA; Eugene, OR; Tampa, FL, and Honolulu.

Map Website: <http://google.com/transit>

Source: <http://pittsburgh.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/stories/2006/09/25/daily13.html?surround=lfm>

**14. *September 26, Pacific Business News* — Report: United Airlines seeks merger partner.**

United Airlines, already the second largest airline, is reportedly pursuing industry consolidation. Crain's Chicago Business reports that Chicago-based UAL Corp. has hired Goldman Sachs & Co. to look into the possibility of merging with another major airline. United CEO Glenn Tilton has been giving speeches for more than a year advocating a relaxation of federal regulations against foreign investment in U.S. common carriers, and it has widely been assumed that Tilton wanted to merge with Germany's Lufthansa, with which United has a close alliance. But those regulations have not been loosened, impelling Tilton to look to his domestic competitors if he wants to grow through merger.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060926/1351345.html?.v=2>

**15. *September 26, Associated Press* — Review turns up problems in Boston's older tunnel.**

A city transportation review prompted by a deadly collapse in a Boston Big Dig tunnel has found cracks that will require major repairs to an older tunnel under Boston Harbor, Governor Mitt Romney said Tuesday, September 26. The Sumner Tunnel does not need to be closed immediately, and repair work probably will not begin until next summer at the earliest, the governor said. But he said there eventually could have been "a real safety failure" had the problems gone unchecked. During a news conference, Romney said that about 30 percent of the tunnel's concrete lining has problems, adding that there will be regular inspections to remove any loose concrete until repairs are completed.

Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/nation/15613554.htm>

**16. *September 26, CBS4 News (FL)* — Cameras to monitor parking, terminals at Florida airport.**

Travelers and others who park inside garages and terminals at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport will soon be seen on closed-circuit surveillance cameras. For the first time, the airport will install a network of TV cameras that monitor both public and secure areas of the airport in order to step up security. The airport already has a small system, but this is the first time Broward County would add cameras to its parking garages and remote parking lots as well. These cameras are designed to monitor public places where it is difficult to have live security, said Airport Director Tom Jargiello. Inside the terminal, the airport is working with the Transportation Security Administration. The cameras will also monitor employees in parts of the airport inaccessible to the public. The four-phase project will expand on those existing cameras, at a cost of more than \$4.5 million. The money will come from passenger facility charges already added to the cost of each ticket.

Source: [http://cbs4.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_269111138.html](http://cbs4.com/topstories/local_story_269111138.html)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *September 26, Business Journal* — **FedEx to invest \$2.6B in fleet upgrades.** FedEx Corp., which is building a mid-Atlantic air-cargo sorting hub at Piedmont Triad International Airport just west of Greensboro, NC, has said it will invest \$2.6 billion to replace its Boeing 727 aircraft with the wider Boeing 757-200 planes. Memphis-based FedEx Corp.'s board of directors approved a plan to buy 90 Boeing 757-200 aircraft to replace FedEx Express' narrow-body fleet of Boeing 727-200 aircraft. FedEx Express expects to start using the new aircraft between 2008 and 2016. The Triad FedEx hub is scheduled to open in 2009.  
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060926/1351401.html?v=1>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

18. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Experts: U.S. must protect food supply.** The U.S. needs to continue taking steps to protect its food supply from terrorism just as it would its buildings, airports and other infrastructure, FBI deputy director John Pistole said. "The threat from agroterrorism may not be widely recognized, but the threat is real and the impact could be devastating," Pistole said Monday, September 25. Pistole, keynote speaker at the second International Symposium on Agroterrorism, pointed to a nonterrorism example — a single case of mad cow disease in the U.S. in 2003 — to illustrate the potential impact. "Days after the discovery, 53 countries banned U.S. beef imports. The economic loss to the U.S. cattle industry from the loss of beef imports just to Japan was more than two billion dollars a year," Pistole said. "Almost three years later, countries have reopened their borders to U.S. beef, but exports still have not reached 2003 levels." Pistole told about 1,000 delegates from 21 countries attending the four-day symposium that terrorist groups like al Qaeda have shown interest in U.S. agriculture and could threaten the food supply. The U.S. food and agriculture industry employs about one in eight Americans.  
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/business/manufacturing/feeds/ap/2006/09/26/ap3044457.html>

19. *September 25, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **New soybean rust found in Louisiana field, South Carolina sentinel plot.** Asian soybean rust was found Monday, September 25, in St. Landry Parish, LA, and Bamberg County, SC, bringing the U.S. total of rust-positive counties and parishes to an even 70. Soybean rust has been confirmed in 50 counties on soybeans in eight states. Including rust on kudzu, there are 70 counties in the same eight states known to have rust in 2006: 16 in Louisiana and South Carolina; 13 in Florida; 11 in Georgia; five in Alabama; four in North Carolina; three in Texas; and two in Mississippi. In Louisiana, the rust confirmed this morning was from soybean leaves collected near Opelousas in St. Landry Parish, which is in the south-central part of the state.  
Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=964>

20. *September 19, Canadian Food Inspection Agency* — **Manitoba livestock now free of bovine tuberculosis.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has declared livestock in the area around Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park free of bovine tuberculosis (TB). The region, referred to as the Riding Mountain TB Eradication Area, had been the only part of Canada without TB-free status. The new designation is based on a sustained and aggressive surveillance program that has found no cases of bovine TB in livestock in the area since April 2003. The CFIA's enhanced surveillance program began in 2002 and has closely monitored the

health of all area cattle and farmed bison herds through approximately 142,000 TB tests. Area producers are no longer required to obtain CFIA movement permits for cattle and farmed bison. This measure effectively contained the spread of the disease by ensuring that only animals from herds testing negative for bovine TB were allowed to leave the area.

Source: [http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2006/200\\_60919e.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2006/200_60919e.shtml)

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## **Food Sector**

21. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Investigators close to tainted spinach source.** Test results linking two bags of Dole brand baby spinach to a deadly E. coli strain have helped health officials hone in on a specific batch from a San Juan Bautista processing plant that may be the source of a nationwide outbreak. The investigation remains focused on Natural Selection Foods LLC, which officials believe packaged the tainted spinach for Dole and dozens of other brands. They're looking specifically at nine farms in three California counties that supplied the company with leafy greens. Both tainted bags — one found in Utah and the other in New Mexico — were processed during the same shift on August 15 at Natural Selection's plant, said Kevin Reilly, deputy director of prevention services for the California Department of Health Services. The E. coli outbreak from spinach has sickened at least 175 people, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Monday, September 25. More than half — 93 — were hospitalized, including a 77-year-old Wisconsin woman who died. Two other deaths have been reported in suspected cases — a child in Idaho and an elderly woman in Maryland — but those cases still are being investigated.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/26/AR2006092600173.html>

22. *September 22, Illinois Department of Agriculture* — **Illinois Food Systems Policy Council's first food security exercise held.** Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's administration hosted the first food security tabletop exercise of the Illinois Food Systems Policy Council (IFSPC) at Richland Community College in Decatur Friday, September 22. The IFSPC is a public-private partnership that is helping to develop and implement strategies to improve food and agricultural security and safety in Illinois and support the growth of Illinois food producers. IFSPC is conducting exercises and forums on food security, implementing a new food and agri-security information clearinghouse on the Internet, and crafting a report to the General Assembly recommending new food security policies. The tabletop exercise simulated the challenges faced by the food industry, law enforcement, hospitals and government agencies in the event of an attack. The goal of this exercise was to focus on the roles of county, state and federal government agencies and the food industry to work together to detect, respond to and recover from an intentional incident involving the food supply.

Source: <http://www.agr.state.il.us/newsrels/r0922061.html>

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## **Water Sector**



Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

23. *September 26, Boston Herald* — **Eastern equine encephalitis claims state's second victim.** A 58-year-old Everett, MA, woman has died of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), making her the state's second casualty this year of the mosquito-borne virus. State public health officials declined to identify the woman, who fell ill September 11 and was hospitalized a day later. She died September 18, according to a state Department of Public Health spokesperson. The woman made a Labor Day trip to Southeastern Massachusetts, where EEE-infected mosquitoes have been found in large numbers. But state health and local mosquito control officials say there is no way of telling where she caught the disease. Last month, a 9-year-old boy from Middleboro, died after contracting the virus. Residents of Fairhaven, Lakeville and Acushnet also have contracted the virus this year.

EEE information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/eeefact.htm>

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=159268>

24. *September 26, Reuters* — **Indonesia probes possible bird flu cluster in family.** Indonesia is investigating a possible cluster of bird flu cases after a man died and his brother and sister were hospitalized, one of them testing positive for bird flu, a doctor said on Tuesday, September 26. The man, 25, died on Sunday, September 24, with bird flu symptoms after being treated at a Christian hospital in Bandung, the capital of West Java province, said Hadi Yusuf, head of the bird flu ward at the city's Hasan Sadikin hospital. The dead man's brother, 20, and sister, 15, were being treated in Hasan Sadikin hospital and tests carried out by a government laboratory showed the surviving brother had bird flu, Yusuf said. It was not clear if samples from the dead brother had been taken for tests when he was treated, the doctor said. Results for the girl were expected on Wednesday, September 27. The brothers often bought dead chickens to feed their dog, but the girl had no known history of contact with chickens, the doctor said. "If it is true that the youngest did not touch chickens at all and she had bird flu, we need to suspect she got it from the brothers," he said.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2006-09-26T103929Z\\_01\\_JAK269156\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-BIRDFLU-INDONESIA.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2006-09-26T103929Z_01_JAK269156_RTRUKOC_0_US-BIRDFLU-INDONESIA.xml&archived=False)

25. *September 26, Agence France-Presse* — **Thailand confirms new bird flu death.** A 59-year-old farmer has died of bird flu in northeastern Thailand, bringing the country's death toll from the H5N1 virus this year to three, the kingdom's top health officials said. The victim had touched dead fowl with his bare hands, Thawat Sunthrajarn, director general of the disease control department said, adding the farmer had also fed medicine to sick birds with his own hands. Thailand's military, which ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a bloodless coup last week, asked public health officials to report any information on the deadly virus. The farmer had told doctors in July that he had tried to cure the poultry he kept in his backyard but that all of them later died at his farm in the village of Non Mueang, Nong Bua Lam Phu, some 360 miles northeast of Bangkok. The farmer reported sick on July 14 and was admitted to the provincial hospital on July 26 in Nong Bua Lam Phu before he died of complications on August 10. The autopsy and avian influenza tests were carried out on August 12 but only officially

released on Tuesday, September 26, following a review by experts.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060926/hl\\_afp/healthfluthailand\\_060926112621;\\_ylt=Amx6FIacbtBDqiE.k.nLJCJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060926/hl_afp/healthfluthailand_060926112621;_ylt=Amx6FIacbtBDqiE.k.nLJCJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--)

26. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Rumors in developing world slow vaccine.** For Ramatu Garba, the polio vaccine is part of a conspiracy hatched in the West to sterilize Nigerian girls. "Allah used Muslim scientists to expose the Western plot of using polio vaccines to reduce our population," said the Muslim food vendor. Each time health teams have tried to vaccinate her daughter, Garba has refused. It's been three years since local politicians began a campaign of fear and rumor, claiming the polio vaccine would sterilize children. Those unfounded fears still persist, and it's this myth, and others like it, that are responsible for the spread of polio into almost two dozen other countries where it was once stamped out. The World Health Organization had to give up its goal of eradicating polio globally by 2005. Responding to the cascade of outbreaks caused by Nigeria cost an extra \$200 million last year alone. Fears about the polio vaccine have been so prevalent in rural Nigeria that villagers have fled their homes when polio vaccinators arrive. In 2003, vaccinations were suspended for nearly a year while tests were done to convince local officials that the vaccine was not contaminated with estrogen. So the politicians lifted their ban. But distrust persists in many parts of the country.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/25/AR2006092501096.html>

27. *September 19, Epidemiology* — **Estimation of the duration of vaccine-induced immunity against smallpox.** Although the potential for bioterrorism has led to discussions on the durability of vaccine-induced immunity, the actual duration of protection against smallpox is still unknown. Researchers analyzed six major smallpox outbreaks that occurred before and after 1900 in the United Kingdom. These analyses are based on the age-dependent incidence of smallpox and the fraction of severe manifestations among individuals with or without prior vaccination. Researchers used a likelihood-based approach to estimate the duration of immunity from the age-specific frequencies. The expected median duration of protection from disease ranged from 11.7 to 28.4 years after primary vaccination, and the qualitative pattern of duration could be described using Gompertz's Law. Vaccinated individuals appear to have been protected from severe disease with more than 50 percent probability even 50 years after successful primary vaccination. These findings suggest that successful primary vaccination offered full protection for a few decades, with partial protection from severe smallpox possibly lasting a lifetime, for a substantial fraction of the population.

Source: <http://www.epidem.com/pt/re/epidemiology/abstract.00001648-200609000-00017.htm;jsessionid=FZKJmqT2RXGscSgkvwG6mKXymLlFTgnflqf62vzGnTSKYnGcftl!1513079044!-949856145!8091!-1>

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## **Government Sector**

28. *September 26, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-1081: Terrorism Insurance: Measuring and Predicting Losses from Unconventional Weapons Is Difficult, but Some Industry Exposure Exists (Report).** Terrorists using unconventional weapons, also known as

nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological (NBCR) weapons, could cause devastating losses. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) of 2002, as well as the extension passed in 2005, will cover losses from a certified act of terrorism, irrespective of the weapon used, if those types of losses are included in the coverage. Because of a lack of information about the willingness of insurers to cover NBCR risks and uncertainties about the extent to which these risks can be and are being insured by private insurers across various lines of insurance, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to study these issues. This report discusses (1) commonly accepted principles of insurability and whether NBCR risks are measurable and predictable, and (2) whether private insurers currently are exposed to NBCR risks and the challenges they face in pricing such risks. GAO collected information from and met with some of the largest insurers in each line of insurance, associations representing a broader cross section of the industry and state insurance regulators. GAO makes no recommendations in this report.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d061081high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-1081>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

### **29. *September 26, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.****

A minor earthquake awakened residents early Monday, September 25, in Marlboro County, SC, the second quake to hit the area in several days. The magnitude 3.7 quake was centered near Society Hill in the northeast corner of South Carolina, about 90 miles southeast of Charlotte, NC, according to the National Earthquake Information Center. There were no reports of injuries or damage. A magnitude 3.5 quake shook the area Friday, September 22, and the centers of the two quakes were about 10 miles apart. The area gets small earthquakes now and then because of faults connected to the Appalachian Mountains, however having two so close together have some concerned.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat092606.shtm>

### **30. *September 25, Monroe Times (WI)* — **Ham operators to help in emergency test.****

Green County, WI, ARES/RACES, a group of amateur "ham" radio operators donating their time, talent and equipment in public service, will participate in the 2006 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Saturday, October 7. The SET is an annual nationwide exercise that tests amateur radio's emergency communications effectiveness. The SET is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio. This year's exercise will test Wisconsin amateurs' readiness to handle emergency communications in case of a bio-terrorist event. In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Wisconsin ARES/RACES worked with hospitals and public health agencies statewide to formulate plans to provide backup communications in a widespread medical emergency. Amateur radio continues working when most communications infrastructure fails, so it often is called on to complete the link between an emergency scene and functioning communications systems.

Source: <http://www.themonroetimes.com/m0925ham.htm>

*September 25, City of New York* — **New York unveils new fire department operations center.** Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta Monday, September 25, unveiled the newly rebuilt New York Fire Department (FDNY) Operations Center (FDOC). The \$17 million, state-of-the-art center serves as the central command and information hub for the FDNY. Located at FDNY Headquarters in Downtown Brooklyn, the FDOC is staffed by uniformed personnel who monitor fire and emergency medical services activity across the five boroughs, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Technology upgrades in the FDOC will allow the FDNY to increase its interoperability with other city agencies including the New York Police Department, Office of Emergency Management and Department of Transportation and allow senior fire commanders the ability to management multiple, large scale incidents across the city from a single, central remote location. The FDOC will be able to leverage the future benefits of the Citywide Public Safety Wireless Network which will provide the real-time links to city, state and federal agencies and provide for greater situational awareness and resource coordination in case of a large scale manmade or natural disaster.

Source: [http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.c0935b9a57bb4ef3daf2f1c701c789a0/index.jsp?pageID=mayor\\_press\\_release&catID=1194&doc\\_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fom%2Fhtml%2F2006b%2Fpr338-06.html&cc=unused1978&rc=1194&ndi=1](http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.c0935b9a57bb4ef3daf2f1c701c789a0/index.jsp?pageID=mayor_press_release&catID=1194&doc_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fom%2Fhtml%2F2006b%2Fpr338-06.html&cc=unused1978&rc=1194&ndi=1)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

32. *September 26, Security Focus* — **Microsoft Internet Explorer VML buffer overflow vulnerability.** Microsoft Internet Explorer is prone to a buffer overflow vulnerability. The vulnerability arises because of an error in the processing of Vector Markup Language (VML) documents. An attacker can exploit this issue to execute arbitrary code within the context of the affected application. The method currently used to exploit this issue will typically terminate Internet Explorer. This vulnerability is currently being exploited in the wild as "Trojan.Vimalov." This vulnerability affects Internet Explorer version 6.0 on a fully patched system. Previous versions may also be affected. Microsoft Outlook 2003 is also an attack vector for this issue, since it uses Internet Explorer to render HTML e-mail. Reportedly, attacks are possible even when active scripting has been disabled for e-mail viewing.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/20096/info>

Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/20096/references>

33. *September 26, USA TODAY* — **Microsoft plans quick VML security patch.** Microsoft on Monday, September 25, said it plans to take the unusual step of issuing a security patch as quickly as possible to stem a newly discovered flaw in its Internet Explorer Web browser that cybercrooks have already begun exploiting to take control of victims' computers. The flaw in Explorer's Vector Markup Language (VML) coding is alarming because hackers and cyberthieves have already begun using it to plant malicious computer code on at least 2,000 Websites, according to security firm VeriSign iDefense. Simply clicking on a tainted Website turns control of the victim's computer over to the attacker. Until a patch becomes available, computer users can protect themselves by disabling VML coding. Instructions from Microsoft

can be found at: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/925568.mspx>  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-09-26-browser-usat\\_x.htm?POE=TECISVA](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2006-09-26-browser-usat_x.htm?POE=TECISVA)

34. *September 26, VNUNet* — **Kaspersky Lab warns of 'severe risk' e-mail worm.** IT security experts have issued a "severe risk" threat warning after detecting a virulent new worm spreading in the wild. Kaspersky Lab warned that Win32.Warezov.at uses its own SMTP engine to send itself to e-mail addresses harvested from the Windows address books on infected machines. The worm runs when the user clicks on the attached file, a portable executable of around 117KB, packed using UPack. The worm copies itself to disk and modifies the registry to ensure that it loads automatically on start up.  
For further detail: <http://www.viruslist.com/en/viruses/encyclopedia?virusid=135921>  
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2164996/experts-warn-worm-presents>
35. *September 25, Websense Security Labs* — **Zero-day update: E-mail lures to VML exploits.** Websense Security Labs has begun seeing mass mailing lures for Websites that are hosting Vector Markup Language (VML) exploit code. Most of the sites are using updated Web-Attacker code. A recent example that came to Websense from Message Labs appears to lure users to the site by claiming they have received a Yahoo! Greeting Card. The site downloads and installs an Internet Explorer Browser Helper Object that directs all HTTP posts from forms to a third party, and then collects information on end-users. See source for screen shot.  
Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=633>
36. *September 25, Information Week* — **Encryption works wonders, but causes its own IT headaches.** The policy for some organizations that handle sensitive data has been to encrypt everything — despite encryption's well-deserved reputation for adding cost, complexity, and latency to IT environments. More organizations need to encrypt more of their data, but blanket encryption policies still are a bad idea. The most aggressive users of encryption for PCs, databases, and networks can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on product licenses, training, and support. The added software and hardware layers can slow systems performance, particularly when data packets must be decrypted to be examined by firewalls and intrusion-prevention systems. The alternative is to assume that all encrypted data is coming from a trusted source and let those packets through without inspection. Companies must view widespread encryption with their eyes wide open. Even by the vendors' own admissions, encryption technology presents many difficulties. It sucks up a lot of IT time and makes it harder to share information. Then there's the management of the keys used to decrypt messages. If they're stolen or otherwise fall into the wrong hands, encrypted data becomes vulnerable. If keys are lost, it can become impossible to retrieve data.  
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=193004775>
37. *September 22, Kaspersky Lab* — **Kaspersky Lab presents its half-yearly report on malware evolution.** Kaspersky Lab has announced the publication of the Kaspersky Security Bulletin, a half-yearly analytical report on malware. The report, written by Kaspersky Lab virus analysts, looks back at trends in malware evolution over the last six months and makes predictions for the future evolution of malicious code. Among the findings: a) The number of new malicious programs (including modifications) each month increased by an average of 8 percent compared



to the same period in 2005; b) Trojan programs are developing faster than any other class of malicious code; c) Viruses and worms have, as a class, been experiencing a steady decline for more than a year. The number of new modifications has fallen across the class, from viruses, to e-mail and other worms. This decline is caused by simple economics; it is less expensive to develop a primitive Trojan program than to create self-replicating malicious code such as a worm.

Source: <http://www.viruslist.com/en/analysis?pubid=198968167>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

**Current Port Attacks**

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 80 (www), 57715 (---), 65530 (WindowsMite), 32804 (---), 4672 (eMule), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 445 (microsoft-ds), 44666 (---), 113 (auth) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

38. *September 26, Daily Star (AZ)* — **Surveillance cameras to watch Arizona town.** The Tucson Police Department (TPD) is preparing a new approach to fighting and preventing crime by placing 14 high-tech surveillance cameras strategically around Downtown. The proposal, named "Rio Nuevo Safe City Centro," is still in its preliminary stages, but police hope to present it to the City Council by the end of October, said TPD Assistant Chief Kathy Robinson. "There is a perception of a crime problem in Downtown because of issues with transients, issues with the homeless, and issues with narcotics," Robinson said. "We want to make Downtown a nice, comfortable place to go to." Four of the 14 proposed locations include the U.S. District Court Building, the County-City Public Works Building, the Chicago Store, and Tucson City Court.

Source: <http://www.fox11az.com/news/topstories/stories/kmsb-20060927-snjc-bigbrother.1b2ecd36.html>

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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